

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 DODE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 AF-10 /046 W
----- 102788

R 040603 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0865

INFO DOD/ WASHDC

DIA/ WASHDC

NAVELEXSYSCOM FOR PME-119

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2516

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS

SUBJ: PROJECT OMEGA

REF: A) STATE 075343 B) STATE 076521 C) STATE 035454

D) CANBERRA 2423 E) CANBERRA 2271

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF PROVIDED ASSISTANT SECRETARY FLOOD OF DFA WITH CURRENT STATUS REPORT AND STATEMENT OF FUDNING PROBLEM IN EMBASSY LETTER MAY 2. FLOOD WELCOMED INFORMATION AND REQUESTED ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR BACKGROUND AND PRESENTATIONAL USE. END SUMMARY. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PARA 4 BE PROVIDED TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMISSION TO DFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. AS INDICATED REF D, EMBOFF PRESENTED LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FLOOD OF DFA MAY 2 BASED UPON REFS A AND B. FLOOD REPORTED DFA HAD PREPARED DRAFT STATEMENT ON OMEGA FOR USE BEFORE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE . HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I. E. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, TO FOCUS UPON OMEGA AND THAT INDEED JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMED. FLOOD STATED THAT WHEN COMMITTEE WAS FORMED, IT MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER OTHER MATTERS IN ADDITION TO OMEGA.
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HE ALSO STATED THAT THERE WAS NO " BUREAUCRATIC" PRESSURE WITHIN GOA TO PUSH OMEGA AND THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS HAPPY TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN EMBASSY LETTER BUT COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCE IT WOULD BE ACTED UPON PROMPTLY.

3. IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION ON STATUS OF OMEGA SYSTEM AND FUNDING PROBLEM CONTAINED IN EMBASSY LETTER, FLOOD NOTED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR USE AS BACKGROUND AND FOR PRESENTATION PURPOSES WHEN THAT WAS POSSIBLE. HE MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT WITH REGARD TO FUNDING PROBLEM, PERHAPS BECAUSE HE WAS ALREADY AWARE OF IT IN GENERAL TERMS FROM CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HE SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE STATUS REPORT AND ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

4. FLOOD REQUESTED: A) AN UPDATING OF THE STATUS REPORT GIVING ADDITIONAL DETAILS SIMILAR TO THAT PROVIDED IN REF C. HE LAID PARTICULAR STRESS UPON KNOWING WHEN EACH STATION WILL BE ON THE AIR AFTER TESTING PERIOD. IN THIS CONNECTION EMBOFF NOTED THAT INFORMATION IN EMBASSY LETTER IS THAT WHOLE SYSTEM WITH EXCEPTION AUSTRALIAN STATION WOULD BE OPERATIONAL IN DECEMBER, 1974. B) PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRANSMITTING STATIONS USING TOWER TYPE ANTENNAE WOULD BE USEFUL. FLOOD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PHOTOS OF VARIOUS KINDS OF OMEGA RECEIVERS WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME. IN THIS CONNECTION HE ASKED FOR SIX POSITIVES OF EACH PHOTO SO THAT THEY MAY BE RAPIDLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG INTERESTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. HE SAID ONE GOOD PHOTOGRAPH OF ANY PARTICULAR SUBJECT WOULD BE MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN A WHOLE SERIES OF PHOTOS OF THE SAME SUBJECT FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES. C) INFORMATION ON AMERICAN AND FOREIGN FIRMS WHICH ALREADY PRODUCE OMEGA RECEIVERS INCLUDING THE KIND OF RECEIVER, E. G. SHIPBOARD OR AIRBORNE, COST AND AVAILABILITY IN TERMS OF DELIVERY TIME FROM PLACING ORDER. D) INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED STATION IN LIBERIA, ABOUT WHICH THE GOA HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED. A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT

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WITH LIBERIA WAS REQUESTED ALONG WITH INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE LIBERIAN STATION WAS INTENDED TO REPLACE ANOTHER OF THE PROPOSED OR OPERATIONAL OMEGA STATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION EMBOFF NOTED THAT LIBERIAN STATION WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE COVERAGE IN MIDDLE AND SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONS AND ALSO SERVE AS LINK IN EAST/ WEST DIRECTION WITH PROPOSED STATION IN

LAREUNION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT TRINIDAD STATION, EMBOFF NOTED HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC OMEGA AGREEMENT FOR STATION LOCATED THERE SINCE IT WAS SITED UPON LAND ALREADY UNDER LEASE TO USG. AFTER RECEIVING THIS EXPLANATION, FLOOD INDICATED HE DID NOT NEED COPY OF AGREEMENT RELATING TO TRINIDAD STATION BUT RENEWED HIS REQUEST FOR COPY OF LIBERIAN AGREEMENT.

5. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FLOOD, EMBOFF SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE AN EXHIBITION OF OMEGA RECEIVERS IN AUSTRALIA BY A COMMERCIAL FIRM. AS AN EXAMPLE, EMBOFF CITED FACT THAT SEVERAL FOREIGN FIRMS ARE ALREADY PRODUCING COMMERCIAL RECEIVERS AND THAT IF THERE IS A POTENTIAL MARKET IN AUSTRALIA, SUCH FIRMS COULD PERHAPS BE ENCOURAGED TO SET UP AN EXHIBITION HERE. SOME OF THESE FIRMS MAY WELL HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH APPROPRIATE AUSTRALIAN FIRMS. THE PURPOSE OF ARRANGING SUCH AN EXHIBITION WOULD OF COURSE BE NOT ONLY TO ENCOURAGE SALES OF RECEIVERS IN AUSTRALIA BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE BENEFIT OF SHOWING AUSTRALIAN MAN- IN- THE- STREET AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED AUSTRALIANS WHAT RECEIVERS LOOKED LIKE AND PERHAPS GIVE THEM AN IDEA OF VALUE OF OMEGA FOR COMMERCIAL USE. EMBOFF NOTED SUCH A DISPLAY WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH IDEAS PUT FORWARD BY FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY UNKLES OF DEPT. OF TRANSPORT REPORTED REF E IN ENCOURAGING INTERESTED AUSTRALIAN POTENTIAL USERS OF THE SYSTEM TO COME FORWARD IN SUPPORT OF OMEGA. FLOOD STATED HE WOULD TAKE SUGGESTION UNDER CONSIDERATION.

6. COMMENT: TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 4 ABOVE IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM. USEFULNESS OF INFORMATION BEFORE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WOULD BE ENHANCED IF IT CAN BE PROVIDED WITHOUT CLASSIFICATION. WITH REGARD TO STATUS REPORT, WE RECOGNIZE

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IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO REVEALING SUCH DATA PUBLICLY AT THIS STATE. IF THAT IS THE CASE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IN ADDITION TO CLASSIFIED STATUS REPORT ON EACH STATION IN THE SYSTEM, STATUS REPORTS ON ONE OR TWO STATIONS, E. G. NORTH DAKOTA, WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM. WHILE FLOOD DID NOT INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR TIMING FOR RECEIPT OF THIS INFORMATION, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE INFORMATION COULD BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH GOA REPS ON SUBJECT AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON STATUS OF GOA CONSIDERATION.

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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